IN THE LITERARY FIELD

LITERARY TASTE, ESPECIALLY IN NOVEL READING, IS PROGRESSIVE.

A Former Indianian, Who Is Also Novelist, Talks About Books-Leagth of the Story-Gossip.

One Sunday morning in early September

not many years ago, a cab drew up at the

door of a certain New York club which has

"I shall go back to-night," said the new-

comer. "I only came over for the day to

smoking room, seated himself at a small

Now the membership of this club is

made up largely of wealthy, distinguished

and conservative citizens of advanced

years, and three or four of the oldest and

most clannish of these were grouped about

tered. They eyed him suspiciously and

wondered who he was. No one could rec-

ognize him, and the belief grew that some

stranger had strayed in at the easily

swinging doors under the impression that

he was entering a cafe. The attendant

was questioned, but he did not know the

mysterious visitor's name. Thereupon he

was directed to bring the signed check to

the group at the fireside, in order that

they might read the name and see if it

was upon the club membership list. The

servant did as he was told, and, just as

the visitor passed down the the steps to

his cab, the leader of the inquisition de-

ciphered the autograph on the bit of col-

ored paper and startled the others by read-

ing it aloud. It was the name of the then

And while the old gentlemen were looking

at one another in blank surprise and won-

had failed to recognize a visitor of such

to a quarter of the town which is situated

Not far from Grand street the cab turned

down a narrow street, passing the kettle

plunged into the very heart of this dis-

trict, where history is reckoned from the

women-as a romantic tale? It is almost them.

tautology to speak of a romantic novel, for

I believe that all novels are romantic to a

twenty years of realism when many fam-

period and again the pure romance is in

"Most of the literary men in New York

boom dies out. Personally, I am not worry-

are busy grinding out work, which they

ing about the remarkable improvement in

the book trade. I feel that it is a perma-

nent improvement. Fifteen years ago Don

Platt told me that in a few years there

would be a phenomenal increase in the

sale of books. He pointed to the number of

pupils who are graduated from high schools

young people have acquired a taste for

the number of writers, and there is no rea-

son to believe that the sale of books will

certain extent. Of course, we went through

President of the United States.

long prided itself upon its exclusiveness

and the air of quiet decorum which prevails "I rather like bad wine, one gets so bored | within its walls. From this cab stepped a with good wine," Disraeli makes one of his gentleman of dignified, almost distincharacters declare in "Sybil." It is one of guished mien, who was saluted with much the minor humors of literature, says a deference by one of the younger members, writer in the Philadelphia Press, that the | who paused to greet him on the steps. novelist who made himself prime minister of England by sheer brilliancy of intellect was never able to spell correctly the name | straighten out a little matter in one of the of this novel or the character to which it | down-town districts." Then the gentleman belonged. But returning to the quotation I of distinguished mein made his way to the do not suppose that anybody who loved literature could ever adapt the fantastic | round table and called for a cigar and the paradox and apply it to books. Taste in | morning newspaper. reading is progressive. The boy who begins with detective stories and tales of Indian fighting need not be despaired of. If he be a healthy-minded lad be sure that he will soon become satiated with this class of sensational fiction. He will gradually ad- the open fireplace as the newcomer envance to stories of adventure of a better type. The mere appetite for reading will demand variety until he finds himself introduced to the masters, English and American. I have said nothing about serious reading. History is taught in the school. It is the fault of the teacher if the pupil does not become interested in some of the great historical works and standard biographies. Girls who begin with stories by Charlotte M. Braeme and Bertha M. Clay get tired of fiction of that type as experience gives them a wider outlook on life. Librarians note a similar condition among adult readers. They begin with ephemeral fiction, are gradually led to Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot and Charlotte Bronte, and eventually discover for themselves the delights that lie in the great treasure house of English literature. Perhaps the generalization does not hold true in all cases, but it is quite justified by the facts.

Writers of fiction are obliged to bring an equipment to their work which was not de- | distinction the cab was bearing him swiftly manded twenty or thirty years ago. Then they depended exclusively on imagination added to a more or less ample knowledge | about one mile to the south of the aristoof men and women. I remember talking cratic club in which he had passed unover this subject on one occasion with the late Alfred Waimesley, one of the most widely read men that it has ever been my fortune to encounter. Though an Englishman by birth, he spent the years of a generation of men in Philadelphia. During the greater part of that time he was chief to send forth its appetizing odors, and proofreader of the Public Ledger. We were talking of Thackeray. "Why," said Mr. Walmesley in his quizzical way, "if Thackeray were writing in these days he would | reigns of the different police captains and find it hard to sell his books. No magazine would have them. He didn't know anything. To write novels and stories to meet the present demand you must know all about and taking in both sides of that thorough- one which can be profitably run in connec- just now in intimate consultation with the sweep the place out for his morning cock- list of the voters in the district in his mining coal, or building a lighthouse, or running a locomotive engine, or something of that sort. You must tell readers somemay imagine is useful, and put it in the ers." I remarked that Thackeray knew a in a close contest might easily determine hood. Living, as he generally does, in whom wishes to get the lion's share for been seriously questioned. great deal about one thing-human nature; the result of a presidential election. but Mr. Walmesley insisted that such knowledge was not enough for the modern

Now there is a great deal of truth at the bottom of this. You cannot read an ordinarily well-written novel without learning something, or, perhaps, a variety of things. This is one of the interesting developments of the novel in our time. It is no longer for a Jane Austin to come to the defense of in a passage in "Northanger Abbey." Certainly I regard history and biography as the writers of fiction go for many of their plots and materials. It has always seemed curious to me that readers prefer to take peal is made to the imagination in works such as those of Motley, Prescott and Parkman, which are written in a style that of Manhattan. few writers of fiction have ever equaled.

The Length of the Story. New York Times Literary Review.

beginner in literature. And yet it is by no length of the short story; that it should be between 2,000 and 5,000 words. It sounds as if it might be easy to write a story of this length; but professional story writers know difficult to take a good theme and develop it logically and convincingly, at the same words. One successful short story writer says that he writes without thinking of flees several thousand words; but he believes that the pruning greatly strengthens the work. "There are always weak places those soft spots, and it is wonderful how

Some magazine editors consent to publish particularly fine or because it comes from an author strong enough to merit the privilege. More rarely stories of between 12,000 novelettes, and it is a well-known fact, greatly deplored by the way, by Mr. W. D. no time in becoming citizens of the repub- the city of New York. the periodicals, the novelette is too short for book publication. Of course, several this kind is dreaded by publishers because so frequently neglected by readers. Henry who have boldly combatted this condition and has brought them out in "collections." be the story of about 20,000 words.

The ideal length of novels, from the publisher's point of view, has notably increased to bring out a novel of less than 60.000 same old way," he replied. "I remember young women. When a woman likes a book in the East End, and resold them at a profit all, that it be wholesome." words. at is true that many novels as short as 50,000 are placed between covers, but always with misapprehension, unless they have qualities that make a good sale extremely probable. A fair length for a novel is about 75,000 words. Even more likely to attract is the novel of 100,000. Beyond this number of words a novel cannot go without running the risk of sceming formidable to the reader. In this country books ous writers brought their work down closer become formidable much more easily than to real life. But we've emerged from that in England, where readers, trained to the old-fash oned English three-volume novel, maintained for many years by the circulating library system, look askance on romance which promises only a brief and unsatisfactory entertainment.

Talk with a Novelist.

Washington Post.

Mr. George Cary Eggleston, author of "Carolina Cavalier," "Dorothy South," and a number of other well-known books, is in every year, and said to me that these the city, Mr. Eggleston came to Washington from his home in New York yesterday, material. His prophecy has come true. The and will visit here for several days,

"I'm writing a history of the Confederate war and a romance of the civil war, not increase every year. Mr. Platt venwhich will be issued next spring." Mr. | tured the statement that the time would | Eggleston replied, when asked about his work. "My new novel will not be a sequel to see the remarkable sales which many of lly able to obtain funds enough to close to 'Dorothy South,' but the scene is laid in the popular novels have had in the last few the eyes of the police on his long journey. the South immediately after the time of years. He would realize the truth of his From Riga he came to England on a Baltic | throughout the book like the motif in an 'Dorothy South.' it will not contain the statement that our educational system is steamer. same characters. I don't believe in sequels. | developing readers. People get tired of having the same people in a number of books."



A Half True Tale of Ward Politics.

By JAMES L. FORD, Author of ("The Literary Shop," Etc.) - - - - - Copyright, 1902, by James L. Ford.



on the big pipes. It was then that the worm turned at last,

and the captain was beginning to wonder how he was to get through the enormous | way into every out-of-the-way corner of amount of work incidental to the canvass | the world. Here in this long-abandoned and election without his assistance. Now Pete is a gentleman of leisure from | taking up his abode and applying his rest-

the first Tuesday after the first Monday in less energies to the pursuit of trade, November until the opening of the hot corn | Under the shadow of the gloomy old tasseled ears than he sets up his kettle and | Spanish displeasure, there is a new sixtydevotes himself to the delightful practice five-room hotel owned by Americans. A he has not a single peer.

hot corn season in the East Side calendar, ing groceries; a Pennsylvania capitalist is and Pete's duties, which begin with the building an ice plant; a Georgia man has canvass, are of a kind that can be per- made a start in the turpentine business; formed only by one who, like himself, is | there are several orange-growers from thoroughly in touch with his neighbors. Florida and California who have com-Working under the direction of his captain, menced the culture of that fruit; one he must see to it that all the drunken, Pennsylvanian has cleared a large tract careless and uncertain voters on the block of land and will raise winter vegetables are duly registered. He must attend all for sale in the States, while another man political meetings in company with his from the same State is preparing to quargang, or "push," as it is called in modern ry granite. In addition there are several slang, and be personally resonsible for the syndicates which have purchased immense heartiness of their applause. Through his tracts of land, and will cultivate on a large offices the same band of patriots are in- scale oranges, tobacco and other products. duced to march in the political parades, bearing torches and transparencies and cheering frantically as they pass the residences of those candidates who have had the forethought to "see" Pete in due season. And at the conclusion of these meetings and parades it is Peter who is intrusted with the \$10 note that is to be spent in treating the boys, and careful he is, too,

their wages in their pockets. And it is as- and ebony, that heretofore have served no tonishing to learn how faithfully the prom- | the natives.

and the next morning the whole district must do reverence to the dead, for in the higher rank than the cardinal virtue of saloon prospered through a rush of sym- It is Hot Corn Pete's duty to see that all doubt about the matter, the claim being now known to but very few of the citizens pendent or the exiled. If there is a wake in round behind his bar to his private office, the alert to scent possible disruption in the tempt is made to poll those that belong to from the Paris treaty. The matter was the district the captain steps softly in pausing only to glance at the figures on party ranks, sent for the ex-assemblyman the other side no objection is raised, the Once inside the door, the President among the mourners, presses the hand of the cash register, the poor devils who are and told him that the free shall be walked swiftly through a narrow lane the sorrowing mother or widow, gazes looking for a chance to make their bread squared without delay; but Pete, whom he is committed, as the votes are cast with omitted from the proposed constitutional

formed by rows of dusty liquor casks and pityingly at the corpse and praises in low. and butter flourish their coins in the air found cheerfully crying his wares further the full consent and in accordance with the up the block, refused point blank to return | political belief of the men who registered. What is a desirable length in a story. which sat the taciturn, hard-headed little He accepts an invitation to drink, and on It is scarcely necessary to say that in to the fold, affirming that the party had It was on the strength of these and other This is a question that often puzzles the Irishman, who was at once the owner of taking his departure leaves behind him a distributing the tickets the captain has a "done him dirt" and threatening to look to services rendered to the party that Hot the saloon, the leader of his district and bottle or two of whisky and a box of cigars. | keen eye for the main chance, which in this some other leader for the reward that Corn Pete based his claim for recognition means difficult to answer. Most editors of the wielder of a political power so great At the funeral, if the deceased has been a case is his own saloon. And if it comes to twenty years of patriotism fairly entitled at the hands of the United States governand far-reaching as to compel the presence person of any local consequence, the cap- a question of choice between Pat, who can him to. The captain conveyed this ulti- ment, and it is because of its refusal to in his groggery that morning of the chief tain is usually to be found with mourning be counted on to pour at least one of his matum to his chief, the latter looked grave meet his demands that he started a mutiny, emblems on his person in a carriage very two dollars a day into the publican's till. and angry, and Pete's sympathetic follow- which might have spread through the ing began to assume alarming proportions. | whole city had not the gentleman of the appointed Irish-American Warwick, the But the saloon politician must be able to of bringing the bulk of his wages home to Discussion of the matter soon overstepped distinguished mien come on from Wash-

deep in their discussion of the entangle- license, he must use his influence with the Now at the time of which I write no the national government. Like port wine with sundry others in the course of the inthe length of a story, letting it develop legitimate loot of political battle-let us find it expedient to pay the fine himself in 9,000 enfranchised souls by the silent, uglyitself. When it is finished he has it type- take a glance at the extraordinary system the hope of making the poor emigrant be- faced and resolute little Irishman who sat its Bowery corner half way up the block politics. At any rate, before the week was upon St. Helena or as the friends of Dreyting it down to the average magazine that has grown up from the ballot box lieve that he ballot length. In this way he occasionally sacri- and rendered possible just such a meeting keeper-is the only friend the poor foreigner | guished visitor on this Sunday morning in | sideration at Washington may seem laugh- to his party leader and returned to his old has in the country. He must, moreover, early September. (It is a curious thing, by able to those who regard the man who lodging place on the tin roof of the ex- they were certain of its future. One con-The assembly district in which this obtain bail for any of his clients who are the way, that the Jews of the lower East sweeps out the saloon for his cocktail as tension. In his inside pocket was an official cern has bought up the land of several in a story that a writer is perfectly well meeting took place is situated in the most held for a bailable offense, and he is not Side are more easily led by an Irishman one of the least of the many unconsidered notification from Washington, signed by notification from washington. of the collector of the port, Hot Corn Pete those faithful ones among his "push" who went out with him had their reward, too.

> And neither the inspector, Pete, nor the laborers who were appointed at his in- and we will enter extensively into the culstance, have anything whatever to do ex- ture of tobacco and oranges. On account cept to sign their names to the pay rolls of the frequent cold spells in Florida many every morning and draw their wages at the ing other fields, and we have made ar-

> And often on summer evenings when the Bowery lifted up in praise of the contents to produce large quantities of this valuable of his iron pot, men familiar with the history of the district will point him out to the

"That's Hot Corn Pete, the man that kicked up such a fuss that they couldn't seitle it till the President of the United

manner, but he has a tiresome way of ap-

parently agreeing with whatever is said."

esting bit of gossip: Mr. Marion Crawford was to have written the next serial story "The Harvest of the Sword," and was to have been Mr. Crawford's most ambitious effort, including Dante, Paolo and Fran- the United States is the natural market for cesca, and other well-known characters of that period in its scheme. But Mr. Crawhaving written more than half the story he has destroyed his manuscript, and con-

Books.

Some people like to delve in lore Sent downward from the misty past,

Observing how each line is cast; Entrance the pedants and the old-I want a book in which His arms Surround Her when the story's told.

Let bibliomaniacs cry out With joy o'er musty tomes and rare, And babble foolishly about The dates they find imprinted there: I care not how my book is bound, Nor what edition it may be

If at the end His arms surround The maiden who is fair to see,

And others this and that deplore; For some the dull, bleak essay, while The crowds arise demanding gore; I do not search for "style" nor care

audacity to offer him a ticket entitling him to the privilege of doing hard manual work

and the very next day Pete was crying his succulent specialty a hundred yards away, Isle of Pines Letter in Philadelphia Record.

itants. Lying to the east of the Bowery, because the business of liquor selling is The taciturn little Irishman whom we left man, and came down early in order to seats himself just outside the booth with a promise

thing they do not know, something they bly district has long been regarded as one and night, and ranks with the barber shop proportion of the tickets as possible. And saloon of Florence McManus, who was At 1 o'clock the district captain, who has of the most important political battle- as a collecting and disseminating point for he in his turn is beset on his arrival at his known to covet the captaincy of the district been busy getting his followers to the polls in importance. The first government road gain the attention of editors and publish- grounds in the country, and one whose vote all the news and gossip of the neighbor- own saloon by all his captains, each one of and whose fealty to the organization had since sunrise, takes a look at the list. "Has Denny Dineen voted yet?" he says. In fact, for the first time in all the twen- "No," says Pete. "He's working over at | Santa Fe has some mineral springs that are

stranger from afar, saying:

The Tattler contains the following inter-Dean Howells is to be the house at 314 for the Sphere. It was to be entitled Laurence Sterne. Mr. Herbert Paul says ford has a conscience over his work, and a letter to Miss Lumley, whom he married, on lines that did not give him satisfaction,

And some o'er Shakspeare's pages pore, Ah, let the tragic poet's charms

THE PRESIDENT AND THE WARD LEADER.

rooms above his barroom, and spending his own followers.

dingy-looking saloon, ostentatiously closed, of his kingdom. into the dark and grimy back room, in sympathetic tones the virtues of the dead, in the hope of catching his eye.

And while these two men-the one a self- near the hearse. each other across the liquor-stained table, peddler is agrested for selling without a than as an encouragement to the rest.

contains about 9,000 votes, for here popu- for those who are put on trial.

given rise to the expression "saloon poli- according to the number of men required, cooking beneath its tin lid.

An Unusual Bookseller.

Mr. W. M. Voynich, who has acquired an

almost international reputation as a dealer

in early-printed books, has had an unusual

career for a bookseller. Mr. Voynich is

Polish noble families. It is remarkable, by

the way, that the Polish nobility used no

titles, and that the titles of count they use

nowadays were bestowed on them either by

the Russian or Austrian governments. Mr.

Voynich was born in an age of revolution.

He read Karl Marx's "Das Kapital" when

he was thirteen, and was arrested for stu-

wards he became an active revolutionist,

After many attempts to escape sufficient

way out of Siberia, through European Rus-

After a few years as secretary of the Free

London Mail.

gion of Siberia.

hope to get on the market before the book | a Pole, and belongs to one of the oldest

reading, and must be supplied with reading | dent agitation before he was fifteen. After-

come when many books would have sales | sia to Riga. Money is apparently all-power-

as large as 50,000. I wish that he were alive | ful in Russia, and Mr. Voynich was luck-

houses are the most plentiful, this assem- place of meeting at all times of the day to secure for his own district as large a Progress Hotel, and "hanging out" at the as he enters.

group at the corner of a narrow, evil-smell- his little private office in the rear, it is an | tains is the scene of unusual bustle and district and at the very beginning of what his ballot for him." "There he comes now," said one of them, keep in touch with every one that dwells tions. Every man on the block who is out struggles in the history of the country Hot ing to one of the loungers, "go in there and frequent the place. as the cab drew up in front of a small, within the four streets that mark the limits of work-and that frequently means a large Corn Pete had kicked over the traces. Jim- vote Denny Dineen's name for him. You, barred and padlocked in deference to the He must know the name and face of to be seen leaning against the bar or buz- no more, and the early morning bartender registered the day before he was killed." the novel as she did with so much warmth law. The President alighted and walked every voter in his territory and to a cer- zing in and out of the ever-open door. swept out the saloon himself to an acquickly through the side door, which flew tain extent those of their wives and chil- Those who have money spend it ostenta- companiment of blasphemous mutterings, men who are working at some distant job, tion. To history, biography and memoirs and closed sharply upon him as he passed marriages and deaths, and attend every buy liquor is a personal trait that, in the and many there were who declared his have died between the days of registration inside. The half dozen men strolled away, christening and wedding. Above all, he eyes of a district leader, enjoys an even cause a just one. Meanwhile the McManus and election. their history and biography diluted in the gloried in the knowledge of something that moment of bereavement it is easy to get political zeal. It is usually late in the day pathetic custom. form of a novel when such a splendid ap- never found its way into print, and is even close to the hearts of the poor, the de- before the captain returns, and as he passes

free and enlightened people-are facing or his power will soon disappear. If a Jew will have the ticket if for nothing better

ments which have arisen over the distribu- judge to have him discharged, or if that is Assembly district in the town was kept so that is sent round the cape, it lost nothing tion of patronage-regarded here as the impossible and the culprit is fined, he will thoroughly in control as was this one of in importance through its journeyings. aware of," he says, "I call them 'soft densely populated corner of the town and infrequently called upon to provide counsel than by one of their own race.) And among human trifles that make up the flotsam all his thirty lieutenants there was none and jetsam of the East Side population. much more vigor the whole story seems to lation is not estimated by human souls, All these friendly offices help along his more loyally zealous to the party the year It is much easier to realize the imporbut by votes. Women and children, being political aspirations and in due time build round nor more efficient at the polls on tance of the matter when we consider that stories as long as 8,000 words, but only for unable to exercise the franchise, are not up for him a personal following, but I doubt election day than ex-Assemblyman Jimmy Hot Corn Pete was the master of two exceptional reasons-because the work is considered in the count. The district con- if all his efforts would have much avail Martin, the captain of the voting district trades-not only hot corn, but politics as tains a comparatively small native and were it not for the extraordinary power that can boast of more cheap lodging well-and that all these things happened Irish element and a very large number of placed in his hands by the distribution of houses than any other block in the city, and on the eve of an election that promised to or 13,000 words find acceptance in the peri- Russian and Polish Jews, together with a what are called "labor tickets," and this the proprietor of the very prosperous Bow- be as closely contested as that memorable odicals and are published in two parts. goodly sprinkling of German, Hungarian labor ticket is the backbone of the whole ery saloon that marks the center of his one in which 550 votes taken from one side and Bohemian immigrants, who have lost system of municipal politics as practiced in domain. Jimmy Martin was always deemed and given to the other in this very State a day. fortunate in the number and loyalty of his | would have made Blaine President of the Howells, that novelettes are not favored lie. Like other assembly districts, this one The labor ticket is simply a card entitling followers, but there was one among them United States.

of affairs. He has written more novelettes | tician," and to which is due the belief prev- | When there is a distribution to be made | For more years than can be counted | reason on earth save that his demand for a than any prominent novelist using our lan- alent in the more polite grades of society the fact speedily becomes known in all the Pete's kettle had been set up every August place in which he should have good pay that political power is maintained by the wards that are populated by the poorer in front of the saloon which was his home and nothing to do had not only been ig-His favorite form of story telling seems to simple process of supplying the voters with classes, though there is very little excite- or "hang-out," as he would have phrased it, nored, but treated as a huge joke. Worst free drinks. As a matter of fact, the dis- ment in the "brown stone" district, in- for he slept on the roof of its extension just of all, the ex-assemblyman had had the it himself."

that Mr. Howells told me many years ago she tells all her men friends and her wom- to dealers and collectors. From this small that a novelist must depend on women en friends about it. Then women have beginning, and with, of course, considerreaders for his success, and what is so ac- more time to read than men, and the writ- able original knowledge, Mr. Voynich has ceptable to women-particularly to young er who would succeed must strive to please in five years established a business that is almost unique in this country, and his

> Mrs. Voynich is well known as the authoress of "The Gadfly" and "Jack Raymond." She is an Englishwoman and the daughter of a Cambridge professor.

> stock of mediaeval books is of very great

Gilbert Parker in Fiction.

Philadelphia Times. Among the things said by Gilbert Parker about the art of fiction in an address to the Sesame Club in London, a fortnight

"A man must know truth to write fable."

"Fiction can be learned, but cannot be

'No great writer has ever had the idea of founding a 'school' of this or that-of idealism or symbolism or romanticism or realism. Really great men have little time number of readers is growing apace with | and was finally banished to the arctic re- | for promulgating theories; they get hold of a few principles and by these they live." "In the art of fiction the individual is money was conveyed to him to bribe his thrown on his own innate talent." "Love and fighting are not necessarily

romance; nor are soup kitchens and divorce courts necessarily realism." "In the very first chapter of the book the note must be struck which shall recur

dolefully referred to the charming work in is divided into voting districts, each one of its holder to a job on some specified mu- who was beyond all compare in those Moreover, Pete's dislike for hard work the form of the novelette done by the for- which consists of a solid block or square nicipal work. Whenever men are needed characteristics which are the cardinal vir- was so great that he never asked for or deand contains from two to five hundred for work on the big pipes, or in Central tues of New York politics, and that paragon sired one of the labor tickets that were so votes. Each of these voting districts has Park, or for street paving or street clean- was "Hot Corn Pete," whose caldron, set eagerly coveted by the tollers of the neighnovelettes by the same author may be its own captain, who reports to and works ing, or for anything else that may be un- up this morning directly across the street borhood, and now Jimmy Martin himself dertaken by the city government, or by the from the Martin saloon, is already begin- was forced to admit that no henchman of In nearly every case this captain is a sa- corporations that desire the good will of ning to his and bubble and send forth an his had ever done more effective work or James is one of the few writers among con- loon keeper, a circumstance which has that government, these tickets are issued appetizing advertisement of the delicacies been content with smaller rewards than

in the past few years. No publisher likes els. "All the world loves a lover in just the lation to the advertising given them by who had three railway arches full of them | that it preserve idlesyncrasy; but, before being. He is most amiable and courteous in When asked about annexation Mr. Pearcy

Literary Notes.

The future New York home of William West Eighty-second street, which the author has purchased for \$27,500. The word "sentimental," a good word,

a word with matter of mirth and irony in it, is believed to have been coined by that it was first used by Sterne in 1740 in a year afterward.

Librarian Eaton, of the "Booklovers' Library," makes a plea for the current fiction about which Mr. Carnegie is so dubious, "Beginners," he says, "read from the present back into the centuries-to-day's newspaper, then the latest magazine, then the current book. From this baseline the plodding is slow and sure back toward the masterpieces.' Mr. Robert Steele, of London, is arrang-

ing to edit and publish the complete works of Roger Bacon, the mediaeval monk who did not invent either gunpowder or spectacles, despite the popular bellef that he He was, however, says the London Mail; the first man of his time to found philosophy on experiment rather than on authority, the process of reasoning followed by Dr. Squeers in the education of pupils at Dotheboys Hall.

Renan produced an unpleasant effect-one of physical grossness-on Lord Ronald, as he did in his later years upon other vis-"There is only one test for a novel; that | itors. "I called, with Mr. Pitman, on an-"I was talking with a number of literary Russia Society, Mr. Voynich started busi- it be first and before all a well-constructed other celebrity, Monsieur Renan. He is one men a short time ago about how novels ness as a bookseller with a capital of some- story; that it deal sincerely with human of the uncouthest and uncanniest-looking of Mr. Eggleston laughed at the suggestion gain their popularity, and we agreed that the public may tire of romantic nov- in most cases books owe their wide circu- sack of books at a penny each from a man feeling; that it have insight and revelation; of. A general look of a half frog half human

sequently postponed publication for some

I hear some critics sigh for "style."

How oft the author may offend If He that loves the lady fair Comes up triumphant at the end. -S. E. Kizer, in Chicago Record-Herald.

The irrepressible American is making his haunt of the West Indian buccaneer he is

ON THE ISLE OF PINES

AMERICANS MAKING INVESTMENTS

THERE WITH A VIEW TO PROFIT.

but Annexation Is Desired-The

Natural Resources.

season in midsummer. No sooner are the quartel, that for a century held within market stalls heaped high with the green- its dark confines the hapless victims of of a branch of the culinary art in which dentist from Tennessee has put out his shingle; a blacksmith from Alabama says Politics begins with the waning of the he is doing well; a man from Iowa is sell-The Isle of Pines is located just south of the western part of Cuba. It has about 1,200 square miles of territory, being thirty miles wide and forty miles long. A lagoon, shallow and narrow in some places and a

It has about 2,500 inhabitants. WEALTH OF THE ISLE. Its wealth consists, principally, of formato do the treating in the saloon of his own | tions of rock, some of which is fine enough for statuary purposes. The best quality of As election day approaches, he contrives | this stone is either pure white or dark gray to see the various voters in the interest of It is free of cracks or flaws and is situated his captain and "get their promise," as the in such a favorable manner that slabs of phrase is. This part of his labor culmi- any desired size can be taken out. The beds nates in a burst of unusual activity on the vary from five to twenty-five feet in thick-Saturday night before election, when the ness. There are also large forests of valuvoters are coming home from work with able hard woods, such as mahogany, cedar

quarter of a mile wide at others, practically

divides the island into two parts. The ele-

vation of its highest mountain is 1,700 feet.

The soil in the more favored parts is a rich loam mixed with sand, and the climate s very desirable, so that almost everything But it is on the day of election that Hot | that grows in tropical countries, such as Corn Pete finds himself with work of a fruits, tobacco, coffee, rubber, sugar cane, etc., can be produced. A fine quality of nareally delicate and confidential nature on tive grass that grows all the year makes politics is the chief industry of the inhab- trict captain is generally a saloon keeper habited by bankers, merchants and lawyers. outside the bedroom of the ex-assembly- his hands. At the opening of the polls he cattle growing an industry of much

The capital and principal point on the island is Nueva Gerona, about a mile and a fare on the blocks where the cheap lodging | tion with politics. A saloon is a convenient | President is certain to be on hand in order | tail. But now he was sleeping at the hands and carefully checks off each man | half from the mouth of the Las Casses river. It has about 800 inhabitants and is growing rapidly. Santa Fe, thirteen miles distant from the capital, is the next place built on the island connects these two towns. These two places are distinguished by being the only postoffices on the island, Half a dozen men were standing in a most of his time behind his own bar, or in the lad lived and voted in the the Erie basin and I told him we'd vote quite noted. A man from Arizona and sevcial English people were very willing to testify to benefits received during their soing street that runs parallel to the Bowery. easy matter for the saloon politician to activity on the day of one of the fiercest political "Here, you, Pat," says the leader, turn- journ there. Many people from Havana

The ownership of the Isle of Pines has given rise to considerable discussion. When percentage of the adult male population-is my Martin's tin extension roof knew him Tom, go in and vote for Patty Moran. He the Paris treaty was signed there was a Rico and all other islands now under Spanish sovereignty in the West Indies." This, taining I regard mistory and bloggard metally included the moment he touched the moment of Pines, which is located about sixty miles ...

from Cuba. But it soon developed that there was a advanced that it was a part of Cuba, and therefore not contained within the meaning or scope of the paragraph quoted above taken up in the Platt amendment, which contains-the following paragraph concernboundaries of Cuba, the title thereto being

left to future judgment by treaty." ANNEXATION IS CERTAIN. While this provided a means of settling undetermined. It is quite likely, however, that the island will be formally annexed to the United States during the present

other a ruler chosen by the franchises of a serve his fellows in many practical ways, his wife, it will be safe to assume that Pat the limits of the district and was heard in lington for the express purpose of squaring to any other form of government. A petition has just been sent to Congress asking hood of its speedy passage. The Cubans do terview between the two men in the district | the island. It was for many years a Spanleader's saloon, is a fact well known to ish penal colony, used for confining Cuban the same by the Cubans as the Roers look

> The syndicates are going ahead with their investments in "The Pines" as though the secretary of the treasury, and setting | the entire island. This concern operates its forth the fact that on the recommendation own steamer and owns the hotel referred to in Nueva Gerona, besides a large amount of other property in and around the capital. was duly appointed inspector at the rate of I called upon the promoter, S. H. Pearcy, formerly of Nashville, Tenn., and asked him for a statement of the plans of his

> company. He said: "New York capital is invested in the ven-For not one inch would Peter move his corn | ture, and the stock is all taken. Instead of offering our land for sale we propose to develop it. We have 20,000 acres fenced with ceived his appointment as laborer at \$2 seven strands of galvanized barbed wire, over 2,000 acres of which have been cleared and are ready for the plow. We have about 150 tobacco barns erected and ready for use, of the orange growers from there are seekrangements with many of these to cultivate our land on shares. The soil of the island will produce a quality of tobacco equal to voice of Hot Corn Pete is heard on the the best produced in Cuba, and we expect staple as soon as we can complete our plans and get them into effect.

TITLES ARE GOOD.

"We own the entire northwestern corner of 'The Pines,' and expect to make a port at the mouth of the Rio Nuevo river, which States came on from Washington to square is the largest stream of the island. There are about \$5,000 acres in this tract, which includes the entire peninsula."

replied: "We, of course, desire to be annexed, and think there is not the slightest doubt but that we shall be, but in any event we have spent large sums in perfecting our titles, and we are sure of them, no. matter what the result of this ownership question may be. If we get annexation it will mean a great saving to us in duties, as all our products."

The capitalists who are investing such large sums here claim to have every assurance that their expenditures will bring them a return. One concern will raise lemons. At present the United States gets the bulk of its supply of this fruit from Callfornia and Sicily. The duty on the product of the latter country is 1 cent each, or \$5 cents per box, which would be quite an item of profit in itself in the course of a year. In the matter of tobacco it is said there is very little risk, for the reason that the soil has been thoroughly tested and its adaptability proven. One of the large firms of Havana cultivated 2,000 acres here during the late war and the crop was so similar to the noted Cuban product that the company was enabled to keep its brands on the market without any appreciable decrease in their quality

It is said there are fully 700 kinds of fish in the waters of the Isle of Pines. There are about two hundred varieties of birds, and almost every sort of tree, plant and shrub common to the tropics. The native holds the beautiful royal palm in much the same regard as he does the Hot Spring. He knows the soil is very rich where the pain grows. It supplies him with leaves for the roof of his house and bark for the sides thereof, while his pig finds excellent forage on the berries that fall from it. Inasmuch as it supplies the most of the native wants It is a friend indeed.